



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

May 8, 2013
7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mayor Euille, Kerry Donley, Councilman Lovain, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, Louisa Ward, Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Carrie Beach, P&Z, Bernie Caton - CMO, Sandy Modell - DASH, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Raymond Mui – DASH, Hillary Poole – T&ES, Danielle Parker – T&ES, Carrie Sanders – T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Andre Stafford – DASH

The Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1. April 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Mitchell asked if there were any comments or edits regarding the April 2013 meeting minutes. Kevin Posey objected to motions being made during Commission meetings and the minutes not reflecting the names of those who made motions or seconded them. He requested the names be added to the record. There being no further comments or edits to the minutes, Kerry Donley made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Councilman Lovain. The minutes were voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Funding Update

T&ES staff, Sandra Marks reported City Council approved the budget on May 6, 2013. A number of priorities of the Transportation Commission were included in the adopted budget.

City Council: Approved the rezoning of the Beauregard corridor and Waterfront on April 13.

Commonwealth Transportation Board: Legislature ratified new Transportation Package with Governor's suggestions

DRPT: General Assembly passed legislation requiring new transit funding to be allocated based on performance. The Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) was formed to develop indicators. TSDAC met April 8 and 22, and have discussed types of performance indicators and the ultimate outcome.

NVTC: On April 4, VRE projects were discussed, including the King Street metro pedestrian tunnel. More funds are needed for construction than originally projected. Grant funds have been identified requiring a local match.

TPB: On April 17, 2013, the Board was briefed on MAP-21 funding related to performance metrics, and CMAQ funding requirements to improve PM2.5 emissions.

WMATA: On April 4, 2013, the Board passed its FY 2014 operating and capital budget. The budget includes building a replacement garage for the WMATA Royal Street garage.

NVTA: NVTA has organized itself into 5 working groups to implement the new transportation legislation.

New Virginia Transportation Funding:

Bernie Caton, the City's Legislative Director, explained the State transportation funding bill, HB 2313. He explained there are regional revenues and revenues that go to Northern Virginia. The Northern Virginia revenues go to Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) who return 30% back to the communities where the transactions occurred if the locality has adopted a 12.5 cent commercial add-on real estate tax or raised an equivalent amount of local revenue for transportation in some other way. The 30% can be used for road construction, transportation capital improvements or public transportation. The 70% that NVTA keeps goes to regional projects. The long-term benefits from NVTA projects have to equal, for each locality, the proportion of the regional revenues raised in the locality. Eligible projects for NVTA funding include mass transit projects that increase capacity and transportation projects that are included in the regional transportation plan and have been rated by VDOT in terms of congestion relief and mobility in the event of homeland security emergency evacuations. The first list of project in the coming year do not have to be rated. NVTA gives priority to projects that provide the greatest amount of congestion relief relative to cost. NVTA projects must be located within NVTA jurisdictions or in adjacent jurisdictions if that part of the project is insubstantial but essential to the project. Localities have to keep up the maintenance of effort.

3. Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan Update

T&ES staff Carrie Sanders gave an overview of the 2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan. Ms. Sanders stated that projects and recommendations from the 2008 Transportation Master Plan and the 2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Plan are underway and will continue to be completed but updates are needed to these plans to reflect the new Complete Streets Program and Capital Bikeshare program. Ms. Sanders indicated updates should include existing and future bicycle parking areas, bicycle way-finding, and on-street bicycle facilities that incorporate innovative treatments such as cycle tracks. She also gave updates on projects completed, ongoing and public outreach programs. Commissioner Posey requested that updates be given on occasion to the Commission on locations with high non-motorized collisions that the Police Department is enforcing.

4. Complete Streets Update

T&ES staff Hillary Poole, the Complete Streets Coordinator, reported on the paving corridors that will be paved this summer, bicycle, shared and climbing lanes, bicycle facilities that under design and the Comprehensive Neighborhood Enhancement program. Del Ray was the first comprehensive program to be conducted. The neighborhood south of Holmes Run Park has been identified as a location for a more robust program. The goal of this program is to improve multimodal connections and accessibility. Staff will bring together stakeholders working on projects in this neighborhood to discuss how projects can coordinate with one another, and provide key improvements for walking and bicycling in this area. Specific locations for Complete Streets improvements will be identified implemented and updates given to the Commission.

5. LRP Update

T&ES staff Sandra Marks reported on the draft of the 2013 Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP). The LRP is an unconstrained list of all transportation related capital projects, programs and studies identified in City plans and policies. Projects on the LRP have no identified funding source. Once projects on the LRP receive partial or full funding, they are moved to the City's Capital Improvements Projects (CIP). Updates to the LRP include projects from the Four Mile Run Plan, and a project within the Beauregard Small Area Plan (Library Lane extension), and a project to further implement the City's Complete Streets policy. The LRP prioritization criteria developed by the Commission will be applied to these new projects and considered by a sub-committee of the Commission and considered by the full Commission in June. The proposed LRP schedule includes reviewing a draft of new LRP projects, the Subcommittee reviewing the criteria and scoring procedure, and initial screening of projects in May. In June, the draft LRP should be materialized. Public input on the projects and adoption of the LRP will occur in July.

6. Staff Updates

The Commission received a written staff update on the Crystal City/Potomac Yard (Route 1) Transitway, and the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station.

DASH Presentation

Sandy Modell, CEO of DASH introduced Paul Abramson, Chair of DASH's Board of Directors. Mr. Abramson and Ms. Modell provided the Commission an update on DASH and its organizational structure

Commission Updates

Chair Jennifer Mitchell and Commissioner Posey will compose the LRP Subcommittee.

Commissioner Posey reported that Norfolk Southern plans to extend their transfer station facilities and suggested staff provide a presentation on how to proceed objecting to the facility extension. Commissioner Donley pointed out that the City has no authority to regulate Norfolk Southern as Federal laws give railroads wide latitude to operate without interference by local governments. Commissioner Donley suggested forwarding a resolution to Council requesting the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) hold a public hearing as the facility is an imminent threat to Samuel Tucker Elementary school and that OEQ exercise their right and require Norfolk Southern to apply for an air quality permit as noise and air quality issues fall under OEQ's purview. Chair Jennifer Mitchell proposed next month's meeting be rescheduled from July 3 to the July 10 due to the Federal holiday. She also announced that she will be reaching out to individual Commission members to discuss their priorities over the next year.

7. Other business

Sandra Marks reported that Joel Marcuson was hired as the new Deputy Deputy Director for T&ES to replace Abi Lerner.

At 9:15 pm, there being no further business, Commissioner Posey made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Donley and unanimously approved.